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# IMMIGRATION AND AMERICANIZATION

## SELECTED READINGS

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

PHILIP DAVIS

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AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

ASSISTED BY

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TO  
MY WIFE







among men's and women's clubs everywhere, and equally useful for general or supplementary reading for thesis work, debates, or general information about races and peoples, conditions and issues, brought into special prominence by the World War.

As the volume goes to press, it becomes evident that our real problem is not immigration *per se*, in spite of the fact that the League of Nations Treaty may precipitate many international problems on this issue, but the Americanization of the millions of immigrants in our midst, to the end that the United States may also represent a united people.

"Many People, One Nation" is the watchword of the Americanization movement, and many of the distinguished men and women who generously contribute to the volume are themselves important factors in the movement. To all contributors and their publishers the editor desires to make grateful acknowledgment.

PHILIP DAVIS

PHEASANT HILL,  
WEST MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS







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# **IMMIGRATION AND AMERICANIZATION**

## **BOOK I. IMMIGRATION**













































habits and national characteristics in the end must rest upon the voluntary balance and concord of many forces.

We may with justice demand from the scholar the philosophic statement, the reconstruction and reorganization of the knowledge which he possesses, only if we agree to make it over into healthy and direct expressions of free living.

































































































































































than was exercised by such consular officers at any other European port. The consul informed the commission that he insisted on rejections not only for trachoma and favus, but for less conspicuous physical defects as well. Experience at United States ports with emigrants from Fiume and Trieste indicates that, notwithstanding the great degree of authority exercised by the consul at the latter port, the inspection at Fiume is much more effective. In fact, the proportion debarred at United States ports among emigrants from Fiume is only 1 to 597, while the proportion debarred among emigrants sailing from Trieste is 1 to 318. The proportion debarred among emigrants embarking at the Greek ports of Patras and Piræus is large, being 1 to 175 in the case of the former, and 1 to 163 in the case of the latter.



























































































It is for the descendants of those Germans who fought under Herkimer at Oriskany; of those who followed Muhlenberg; of those who over the trenches of Yorktown heard the opposing commands given in their native tongue, and finally saw the garrison march out to the time of German music; of those who fought under Schurz and Sigel in the Civil War, to rebuke these prophets of disunion and to turn the aspirations of their countrymen in the direction of true American nationalism.

*hervor*

*g. h.*





































































































































































































quarters constantly changes, but the quarters themselves remain congested and will remain so as long as new immigrants continue to arrive in large numbers. It is vitally important for the city to keep her crowded quarters clean and her tenement houses sanitary; but it is just as important that the public understand that congested quarters of large cities are temporary receptacles of newly arrived immigrants, rather than stagnant pools of filth, and vice, and destitution.















given by foreign element the whole city would have rung with the cry that our American institutions, our American Sunday, were being murdered by foreign influence.

The above suggestions are based upon the belief that it does not matter how much we may disagree upon the policy of immigration, that we are all agreed that after the alien has been admitted into this country he is entitled not only to be given his just right but also to have the best opportunity to become a good citizen. ✓

























selection, and a change in the conditions of this country. (3) If present conditions, laws, and tendencies continue. (a large "if," this), there will clearly be considerable racial change in the future.

Whether such a change would be a good or a bad thing, each must decide for himself, and it rests with the American people to decide whether for their own interests and for the interests of the world in general they desire the change.



























7. It would give resident labor in the cities a chance to organize at the lower levels and develop the discipline of self-government instead of mob action.

8. It would put a new and constructive pressure on employers to cut down by invention the bulk of unskilled occupations, the most wasteful and humanly destructive of all work.

9. It would bring about a fair living, a household wage, in such routine and semi-skilled occupations as remained.

10. It would tend to change mining settlements and mill towns from sleeping and feeding quarters into communities.



































































































harmony with our best institutions. But these evils should not blind our eyes to those of more far-reaching import.

The chief danger of immigration lies, not in this direction, but in the field of industry. When immigrants who are unskilled laborers arrive in so large numbers that the tendency is for them to lower the average rate of wages and the standard of living among the wage earners, the danger is one much more far-reaching, and one to which our statesmen should give earnest attention. This includes indirectly often social effects as well. A number of later chapters will serve to show how imminent this industrial danger is, in what form it appears, and the way in which it should be met. This, rather than the immediate social evils, is the most difficult phase of the immigration problem, and at the moment it is the most important phase. It is this that calls for prompt legislation.





















were dead letters before. Again, increase of a poorer class of immigration decreases the number of the better class and also decreases the chances of those who do come.

The medical phases of immigration blend very quickly into the subjects of national health protection, national eugenics, and even the future existence of the ideals and standard of life which we are proud to call American. Conservatism and a carefully maintained medium between absolute exclusion and free immigration certainly seems the best policy.





















said to hold more than its proportionate share of the lawless immigrants, warrant only one of the following two conclusions:

Either the new environment enables this invading army of immigrants with criminal records to keep within the law ; or else the criminal classes of Europe, contrary to the popular belief, furnish less than their proportionate quota of immigrants — which is quite plausible, since the criminals belong to the submerged portion of the population and are kept at home by want of funds with which to pay for their passage.

















































































































































































































































# **- IMMIGRATION AND AMERICANIZATION**

## **BOOK II. AMERICANIZATION**

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level, or who are imposed upon by a mawkish philanthropy that would finish by substituting for the traditional independence of the self-maintaining and self-respecting American wageworker the broken spirit, the semipauper existence, and the slum habits of the class of European laborers that now mostly make up the cargoes of the steamships in the combine.























































































































































































































































































































































































































































































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